

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

7.2.2023

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Praying To God

Luke 11: 1 – 13

Even in the hardest of times there is always a place in our life where all is well. These are the places and situations in our lives where spiritual growth in our faith takes place, and joy can be found, and this all comes through prayer. Prayer is one thing that we should not neglect in our Christian life, because only through prayer can God satisfy our weary soul. When we fail to pray, we will often fall short of the glory of God, therefore, the more that we pray, the more that we will want to pray. Prayer requires discipline, obedience, and perseverance. Prayer is not just for our time of need, but prayer should be one of the greatest actions of our day, and we should make it a priority in our daily life. This means that we should pray fervently and frequently.

1 Thessalonians 5: 16 – 18,....rejoice evermore....pray without ceasing....in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you....

James 5: 6,....the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much....

God's word challenges us as believers to pray in every circumstance of life. Lack of prayer means a lack of God's power to overcome situations that arise in our life. Remember, Christ will not command us to do something that he did not practice himself while he himself was here upon this earth. Just because we feel that things are going well in our life does not mean that we should be less diligent in our time of prayer, or in our time spent in the word of God. Lack of prayer will cause us to forget all that God has done for us and will cause us to focus on those things of worldly desire which we do not need. Our motivation first and foremost should be to please God, and not to fulfill worldly desires. Remember, God is the one who decides how and when he is going to answer our prayers, therefore, we must pray, and seek after prayer in all instances of our life.

Luke 11: 1 – 4,....as he was praying in a certain place....one of his disciples said....Lord teach us to pray....and he said....our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name....thy kingdom come....thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth....give us this day our daily bread....and forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us....and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil....

How adequate is our prayer life? Do we acknowledge God when we pray, do we acknowledge his unique character and attributes, or do we just ask for things without asking for God's will to be done. Our prayerful desire must be that God's desires will be accomplished. As Christians, we have physical needs and we have spiritual needs, and God allows these needs in our life, so that we might acknowledge our dependence upon him. Prayer is a unique privilege given unto those, who by faith believing have accepted the saving grace of Jesus Christ, for until this prayer is prayed, Christ does not hear our prayer of necessity to supply our needs because we have not yet put our trust and faith wholly and completely in him.

John 9: 31,....now we know that God heareth not sinners, but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth....

Isaiah explained this even before John wrote it.

Isaiah 59: 1 – 2,....behold the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, neither his ear hearing, that it cannot learn, but your iniquities have separated between you and God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear....

Now Isaiah was speaking unto the children of Israel who had once again strayed away from the presence of the Lord because of their disobedience, and then allowed their sinfulness to disrupt their relationship with God. As sinners, those who have yet, by faith believing, to acknowledge Christ and the crucifixion and resurrection are separated from God and therefore have no relationship or open communication with him. As Christians, who by faith believing have accepted and acknowledged Christ, and have received the saving grace of Jesus Christ through the indwelling Holy Spirit, sin can also still disrupt our relationship with God, therefore we must continually pray for Gods leadership in our life, to guide and direct our every moment of life.

1 John 1: 6 – 10,....if we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth....but if we walk in the light....the blood of Jesus Christ....cleanseth us from all sin....if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us....if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness....if we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us....

Why then is prayer so very important to all of humanity because it is the only way that we can acknowledge God and the greatness of his love for mankind. Without this acknowledgement we cannot be born again, without this acknowledgement as Christians, we cannot remain in a close relationship with God. After hearing Christ, himself pray to his heavenly Father, the disciples realized how poorly their prayer life was. The Holy Spirit showed unto the disciples by example, that in order for their relationship with God to grow, their communication with God had to improve, so they ask the question, Lord teach us to pray. As Christians, we have the same opportunity of asking the Lord to teach us to pray, and this opportunity comes through the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Romans 8: 26,....the spirit also helpeth our infirmities, for we know not what we should pray for....but the spirit itself maketh intercession for us....

A life that is lived in Spirit and in truth is a life that is led by the spirit of God, who speaks unto us through our new life in Christ. The Holy Spirit knows the thoughts of our heart and the desires within our soul, and he reaches out unto us through our spirit. The Holy Spirit wants to lead and guide us into all that is faithful, through obedience to the word of God.

Romans 8: 16,....the spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God....

Luke 11: 5 – 13,....which of you shall have a friend....and say unto him....lend me three loaves....and he....shall answer....trouble me not....because he is his friend....he will rise and give him as many as needed....ask, and it shall be given....seek, and ye shall find....knock and it shall be opened unto you....asketh receiveth....seeketh findeth....knocketh it shall be opened....if ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts....how much more your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?....

Every situation in our life, without exception, calls for prayer. God is willing to answer our prayers, but we must approach him in faith believing. The word of God teaches us many characteristics of a good prayer life. Today's lesson shows unto us these characteristics: ask, seek, and knock. We must start by humbly asking for forgiveness, persistently seeking Gods strength to overcome the temptation of sin, and knocking shows our willingness to follow after the desires of Gids purpose and plan for our life through obedience to his word.

Hebrews 4: 16,....let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help us in time of need....

As believers, God is many things unto us, but without prayer and the gospel of his word, we will never discover the greatness of his righteousness. God is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three as one. He is the sovereign God of the universe, he is omnipotent, he is omniscience, he is omnipresent, he is our mediator, the one who created all things. God is the graciousness of the Son who died and rose again so that we might have hope of eternal life. Therefore, we must never allow assumption of the gospel of Christ to diminish our understanding of the privilege that is offered unto us through Gods mercy and grace. Prayer is talking to God because prayer develops our relationship with God. We must learn to worry about nothing and pray about everything.

Let us Pray.

Tim Hughes

304.376.3342 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

<https://hollowowlfarm.com/>

